Telecom:

No Panchayat has made a demand for opening of STD/PCO booths in the State of Assam during last one year. Faxes are allowed freely for private use without any licence fee.

(b) *Postal:*

Two Departmental Sub Post office & Eighteen Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices were opened. Similarly one Departmental Sub Post Office was upgraded to Head Post Office and one Extra Departmental Branch Post Office to Sub Post Office in Assam State during last one Year.

Telecom:

784 STD/ISD/PCOs have been opened in Assam during the last one year i.e. during 1997-98. Faxed are allowed freely for private use without any licence fee.

(c) *Postal:*

A target to open 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices and SO Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Assam State during the current year 1998-99 has been fixed. The opening of Post Offices in subject to fulfilment of norms and resources.

Telephone Connections to Doctors on Priority Basis

2930. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. have any policy to install telephone connections to the doctors on priority basis and the number of doctors who have registered their name since January 1997, till date at Trans-Yamuna Telephone exchange, Delhi;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not installing telephone connections to the doctors till date despite OB No. 112234935 of 19th December, 1997; and

(6) by when, this telephone connection would be installed and the action being taken by Government to provide telephone connections easily to the doctors; and in case no action is being taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doctors are registered under N-OYT Special category which has a separate quota for provision of Telephone Connections.

There are 178 registrants since January 1997 in Trans Yamuna Telephone Exchanges of MTNL, Delhi; details of which are as given below:

Laxmi Nagar Telephone Exchange	110
Shahdara Telephone Exchange	51
Yamuna Vihar Telephone Exchange	17
Total	178

(c) OB No. 112234935 dated 19.12.1997 is pending due to non availability of under ground cable pairs in that particular area.

(d) Telephone Connections are freely available to Doctors in Delhi Telephones. However, Telephone Connections could not be provided immediately due to some pockets/areas being technically not feasible (TNF) due to non-availability of under ground cable pairs.

The laying of under ground cables is in progress vigrously and the pending Telephone Connections to these Doctors will be provided progressively by 30.9.1998.

Utilisation of Subscriber Loop Carriers and Racks

2931. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. procured l0020 subscriber Loop Carrier (SLC) System and 131 racks during 1989—93 worth Rs. 764 Lakhs;

(b) number of SLCs and racks lying idle and un-utilized as on date;

(c) reasons for the non-installaction of them so far and future plans to utilise the same; and

(d) name of the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

M.T.N.L. ordered and procured in different lots 100.20 subscriber Loop Carrier Systems which were house in 153 racks at a total cost of Rs. 767 lakhs during 1989—93, out of which 1200 SLC Systems housed in 25 racks were diverted to Karnataka Telecom. Circle during 1995-96.

(b) 5291 Nos. of SLC Systems housed in 66 racks were not put to use and are laying unutilised.

The SLC Systems are used to install telepones in TNF areas as a temporary measure, till cable paris are made available by way of laying additional underground cables As Cable pairs provision is a dynamic process, the utilisation of SLC also keep varying. Some of the SLC Systems were not giving satisractory service and has gone faulty. It is being examined whether the systems can be repaired economically. In case it is not possible to repair them at reasonable cost the Systems will be scrapped.

(d) 3 Suppliers namely M/s. NATELCO, M/s. HFCL and M/s. Mekaster supplied these items.

Extension of Beat in MA 34 Section from Nagercoil to Madural

2932. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken in regard to extension of beat in MA 34 section from Nagercoil to Madurai (mail service) by Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether as per the reply by the Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu, the papers are pending before Delhi Office;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) how long it will take for extension of beat in MA 34 section from Nagercoil to Madurai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

Necessary orders were issued for extension of the beat of MA 34 Section from Nagarcoil to Madurai on 15.5.1998 and the said orders implemented by Tamil Nadu Circle with effect from 1st July, 1998.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Shifting of Chief General Manager's Office

2933. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief General Manager has shifted his office from Srinagar to Jammu because of growing militant activities in this State;

(b) whether there is scene of normalcy after shifting;

(c) whether the office of the said office bearer is to be brought back at its original place; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief General Manager